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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
TRSE-00 OMB-01 /062 W
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R 220820Z MAR 78
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7617
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMCONSUL MEDAN
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL SURABAYA
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ID
SUBJECT: THE MPR RE-ELECTS SUHARTO

REF: JAKARTA 3607

1. SUMMARY. THE PEOPLE'S CONSULTATIVE ASSEMPLY (MPR) RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT SUHARTO TO A NEW FIVE-YEAR TERM BY ACCLAMATION MARCH 22 IN SESSION WHICH LASTED ONLY SIX MINUTES. NO SO UNANIMOUS WAS THE MPR'S APPROVAL OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT RESOLUTIONS ON THE PREVIOUS EVENING. ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE RESOLUTIONS WERE ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS IN THE FINAL CONSIDERATION, THE MUSLIM-SUPPORTED DEVELOPMENT UNITY PARTY (PPP) STAGED WALKOUTS PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF BOTH THE GUIDELINES OF STATE POLICY (GBHN) AND THE GUIDE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PANCASILA (P4) BECAUSE OF OBJECTIONS TO REFERENCES KEPERCAYAAN (JAVANESE MYSTICISM), THEREBY FORCING VOTING
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TO APPROVE THESE RESOLUTIONS. IN FINAL SPEECHES PRIOR TO RATIFICATION OF RESOLUTIONS, PPP RESTATED ITS BASIC OBJECTIONS WHILE THE OTHER FOUR FACTIONS GAVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE FINAL DRAFTS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A SIX-MINUTE PLENARY SESSION MARCH 22 THE MPR RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT SUHARTO TO HIS THIRD FIVE-YEAR TERM.

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WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF ALL FIVE FACTIONS AND NOT OTHER
CANDIDATES PRESENTED, SUHARTO WAS ELECTED BY ACCLAMATION.
HE WILL TAKE THE OATH OF OFFICE AND GIVE HIS INAUGURAL
ADDRESS MARCH 23, AFTER WHICH ADAM MALIK WILL BE SIMILARLY
ELECTED AND SWORN IN AS VICE PRESIDENT.

3. THE RAPID AND ORDERLY ELECTION WAS IN STRONG CONTRAST
TO THE SCENE AT THE PREVIOUS PLENARY SESSION MARCH 21,
WHEN THE PPP ONCE AGAIN DREW THE LINE AT REFERENCE TO
JAVANESE MYSTICISM AND WALKED OUT AT TWO POINTS, NEAR THE
END OF THE SESSION, FORCING THE MPR TO APPRVE THE GBHN
SECTION REFERRING THE KEPERCAYAAN AS WELL AS THE P4 BY VOTE
RATHER THAN ACCLAMATION. OTHER RESOLUTIONS WERE RATIFIED
BY GENERAL AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE PPP DID POINT OUT ITS
OBJECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH OF ACCOUNTABILITY IN
ITS FINAL REMARKS EARLIER IN THE SESSION. THE PPP SPOKESMAN
SAID HIS FACTION COULD TAKE NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR P4
OR THE GBHN REFERENCE TO KEPERCAYAAN, SINCE EVEN WITH THE
ADDITION OF A STATEMENT THAT KEPERCAYAAN WAS NOT A RELIGION
THERE REMAINED A SUGGESTION THAT IT WAS OF COMPARABLE
STATUS. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT THE PREVIOUS PPP WALKOUTS
AND VOTING MARCH 18 SHOWED THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HEALTHY
DEMOCRACY IN INDONESIA.

4. AS EXPECTED, THE OTHER FOUR FACTIONS IN THEIR FINAL
SPEECHES GAVE COMPLETE SUPPORT TO THE DRAFT RESOLUTIONS,
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WITH THE PDI (DEMOCRATIC PARTY) FACTION LISTING A SERIES
OF EXPECTATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS BASIC POSITIONS CONTAINED IN
EARLIER SPEECHES. IN AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT, VICE
CHAIRMAN ISNAENI (PDI) PRESIDING OVER THE SESSION ANNOUNCED
AFTER THE FIRST SPEAKER IN THE AFTERNOON (FROM THE REGIONAL
DELEGATIONS) THAT THE SESSION HAD TO BE POSTPONED
UNTIL EVENING BECAUSE THE PPP WAS NOT YET READY TO SPEAK.
THIS WAS GREETED BY A GENERAL MOAN FROM THE MEMBERS, AND
PPP LEADERS RUSHED TO PROTEST THAT IT HAD ALREADY BEEN
AGREED THAT ALL THE REMAINING FOUR FACTIONS WOULD SPEAK
THAT EVENING, AND BESIDES THE PDI WAS THE NEXT ON THE
AGENDA. NO EXPLANATION WAS GIVEN BY ISNAENI, BUT A GOLKAR
LEADER TOLD REPORTERS ISNAENI SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER SINCE
HE HAD BEEN PRESENT WHEN THE AGENDA WAS AGREED UPON.
(COMMENT: FOR WHATEVER REASON, ISNAENI'S MISREPRESENTATION
OF AN AGREED AGENDA CHANGE, BLAMING IT ON THE PPP, DID
LITTLE TO REDUCE PPP FEELINGS OF RESENTLMENT AND ISOLATION).

5. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY STRICT, WITH
A DOUBLING OF THE GUARDS AT THE MPR BUILDING MONDAY AND A
REDOUBLING AT THE ENTRANCE TUESDAY. ON WEDNESDAY (MARCH

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22) HEAVILY ARMED TROOPS WERE STATIONED EVERY FEW YARDS
ALONG STREETS LEADING TO THE MPR AND ARMORED VEHICLES
WERE HIGHLY VISIBLE.
MASTERS

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